BREAKING THE PATTERN

How Alberta Communities Can Help Assaulted Women And Their Families

SELECTED ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: WIFE ASSAULT

Alberta
SOCIAL SERVICES

87-00983/

Davidson, T. **Conjugal Crime: Understanding and Changing the Wife Beating Pattern.** New York: Hawthorn Books, 1978.

Conjugal Crime presents information about and for all concerned: the wife in need of counselling or shelter, the husband who knows he cannot control himself and wishes to change his behavior, the witnessing children trapped at home with no way to help who need guidance to survive the family crisis. Although autobiographical, the book is interesting and unique in that religious issues are included as part of the problem and the solution.[2]

Dobash, R. Emerson and Russell Dobash. **Violence Against Wives: A Case Against the Patriarchy.** New York: The Free Press, 1979.

The Dobashes propose that nothing short of the achievement of economic, legal, and political equality of women can abolish wife beating. The authors reject prevailing sociological views that emphasize the deviant or pathological nature of violent families and stress instead that the patriarchal family, which relegates women to a subordinate position, is the primary cause of wife abuse. The Dobashes draw on interviews they conducted with over 100 battered women to describe characteristics of the battered woman's situation: the isolation of the woman in her marriage, her struggle to fulfill cultural expectations of marital behavior, and the failure of friends and service providers to intervene. They cite the need for shelters as a short-term approach to dealing with wife abuse, but stress that the problem lies in "the domination of women. The answer lies in the struggle against it." A scholarly work with an extensive bibliography.[1]

Finkelhor, D., Gelles, R. J., Hotaling, G. T., Straus, M. A. **The Dark Side of Families: Current Family Violence Research.** Beverly Hills: Sage, 1983.[4]

The book is based on papers presented at the National Conference of Family Violence Researchers in 1981, incorporating many authors and a broad spectrum of issues. There is a good section on wife assault, and an in-depth analysis of current issues which will be of special interest to researchers and practitioners. Should be used to supplement knowledge gained from more elementary reading.[4]

Flanzer, J. P., ed. **The Many Faces of Family Violence.** Springfield: Charles C. Thomas, 1982.

An anthology which has as its premise the acceptance that abuse occurs as a result of our condoning society. The North American family system is closed and isolated, hence when difficulties arise, violence is an easily accepted coping mechanism. Several articles emphasize that the addition of alcohol compounds the problem — care should be taken that alcohol abuse is not seen to be the only explanation for violence. These eight essays will find experienced practitioners their most appreciative audience.[7]

Fleming, Jennifer Baker. **Stopping Wife Abuse: A Guide to the Emotional, Psychological, and Legal Implications for the Abused Woman and Those Helping Her.** Garden City: Anchor Press-/Doubleday, 1979.

Stopping Wife Abuse addresses the personal and institutional problems associated with wife abuse from both a theoretical and practical perspective. The first section of the book is directed to the battered woman; it provides information to help her understand her emotions and sense of powerlessness and offers suggestions on how to protect herself and her children. Fleming then addresses service providers, particularly mental health practitioners and social service personnel, and emphasizes the need for their support of battered women. She reviews the legal remedies available to battered women and the obstacles a woman might face in seeking legal help. Fleming concludes with a primer on establishing shelter and support services, including hotlines.[1]

Fortune, Marie, and Denise Hormann. **Family Violence: A Workshop Manual for Clergy and Other Service Providers.** Seattle: The Centre for the

Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, 1980. Available from The Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, 4250 South Mead Street, Seattle, WA 98118.

This manual provides information to involve clergy and congregations in the provision of services to battered women who live in rural areas. The model three-day and one-day workshops presented emphasize the need to teach clergy to counsel battered women appropriately, encourage clergy and social service providers to work together to serve battered women, and educate social service providers about the religious issues many battered women confront. The manual contains detailed information on planning and conducting a workshop and includes sample presentations on rural and religious family violence issues, the battered, the battered woman, and other topics. It also contains a list of successful rural family violence projects from which expertise may be sought by those starting new programs in rural communities.[1]

Ganley, Anne L. Court-Mandated **Counselling for Men Who Batter: A Three-Day Workshop for Mental Health Professionals — Participant's Manual** and **Trainer's Guide.** Washington, D.C.: Center for Women Policy Studies, 1981.

Designed for use in a training workshop for mental health and criminal justice professionals, the **Participant's Manual** can also stand alone as a reference on counselling both court-mandated and self-referred clients. Ganley defines the types of battering, explores the causes of battering, and explains the characteristics of men who batter. The manual offers a step-by-step description of the assessment and treatment of men who batter followed by a description of one model counselling program.
The **Trainer's Guide** outlines a curriculum for a three-day workshop for mental health professionals on counselling men who batter. The guide includes a statement of the goals of the workshop and a rationale for the components and design of the workshop. The guide was developed for experienced practitioners who provide training for program planners and counsellors who are working with men who batter.[1]

Giles-Sims, J. **Wife Battering: A Systems Theory Approach.** New York: Guildford Press, 1983.

The author uses "general systems theory" to explain the paradoxical combination of love and violence which occurs so often in marriage; how battering becomes a stable pattern of marital interaction. Her investigation is grounded in a sound theoretical framework and follows people over time in order to understand the social process. Suggestions for the type of change necessary in order to effectively deal with the problem are included. A scholarly work, yet readable and understandable.[9]

MacLeod, Linda. **Wife Battering in Canada: The Vicious Circle.** Hull: Canadian Government Publishing Centre, 1980.

The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women gathered information from transition houses across the country in 1978. The report analyzes and discusses the data in relation to incidence, contributing factors, effects of violence and response of professionals. Examines the societal attitudes and arrangements which support the use of violence to control women in Canada.[4]

Martin, Del. **Battered Wives.** New York: Pocket Books/Simon and Schuster, 1977.

One of the first major books published on spouse abuse, **Battered Wives** is an excellent general resource on domestic violence. Its contents range from analyses of the family, marriage, victims, and abusers to the practical considerations of initiating shelters for battered women. Martin illustrates the uphill battle that many women face in seeking remedies for abuse from the legal and social service systems. She also describes the complexity of the victim's situation and the factors that may contribute to her inability to leave the violent home.[1]

McGrath, Patricia E. **The Developmental and Implementation of a Hospital Protocol for the Identification and Treatment of Battered Women.** Rockville, M.D.: National Clearinghouse on Domestic Violence, 1980.

This monograph describes the domestic violence program located in the emergency services department at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. The program is designed to identify battered women, provide them with sensitive medical care and counselling, and refer them to community services. The roles of nurses, emergency service staff, and social service staff in working with battered women are outlined.[1]

"Ministries with Women in Crisis" is a packet for use by local churches and local, district, or conference officers concerned about such problems as domestic violence, economic exploitation, women in prison, substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse and single mothers. The packet contains background materials and guides for carrying on a ministry, and some examples of successful church and church-related programs.

Cost: $1.95
Service Centre
Board of Global Ministries
United Methodist Church
7820 Reading Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45237[2]

Morgan, Robin. **The Anatomy of Freedom: Feminism, Physics and Global Politics.** New York: Doubleday, 1982.

Too often in the discussion of wife and child abuse, the question, why?, is asked in honest bewilderment. **The Anatomy of Freedom** universalizes the issue, defining as one sexual fundamentalism — that divides men from women and children — and a myriad of other barriers: skin color, national boundaries and so on. Emphasizes that hope of change is the first step toward freedom. A book that will help everyone working to improve her/his community realize that (s)he is not alone.[7]

Nebraska Task Force on Domestic Violence, "Domestic Violence Services in Rural Communities," 105 Wedgewood, Suite 6, Lincoln, NE 68509.

In an attempt to assist domestic violence service providers in rural areas, the Nebraska Task Force on Domestic Violence has two booklets available: one detailing the first steps of organization, the other discussing direct services and funding. The authors are clear that working in rural areas can be both very difficult and very rewarding. The booklets are a good model for groups in rural areas that are beginning to address the problem of domestic violence.[2]

NiCarthy, Ginny. **Getting Free: A Handbook for Women in Abusive Relationships.** Seattle: The Seal Press, 1982.

In this self-help manual for battered women, NiCarthy raises the issues women must confront in leaving an abusive relationship. She presents information and exercises designed to help women clarify their thoughts and feelings about their relationships, examine their options, and make their own informed decisions. **Getting Free** includes advice on finding the most effective help from physicians, counsellors, police, and lawyers. In the section, "Helping Yourself to Survival," NiCarthy offers self-counselling techniques to help women clarify their feelings, boost their self-esteem, and encourage their friendships with others. In chapters on protection, welfare and housing, the economics of a single life, sexuality, loneliness, and new romances, NiCarthy gives a realistic description of what battered women can expect to experience in the first weeks after leaving. **Getting Free** closes with accounts by women who have left abusive relationships and stayed away.

Pagelow, Mildred Daley. **Family Violence.** New York: Praeger, 1984.

Family Violence brings together into one source many theoretical viewpoints and empirical findings from years of scientific research on all types of violent acts, actors, and victims. It was written

for students, service providers, persons in law and criminal justice, and concerned members of the general public. It takes a cross-disciplinary approach to complex problems that have been investigated by professionals in a variety of fields. For the first time, people wanting to learn about family violence have a complete text available. There is a vast proliferation of written materials on this subject, but each one addresses a particular type of family violence such as child abuse and/or neglect, incest, wife beating, parent abuse, marital rape, and so forth. The task of gathering together the best of this literature is tremendous and time consuming. With this book, educators no longer have to independently research and analyze the literature, because **Family Violence** provides a realistic analysis of this body of work.[5]

Pagelow, Mildred Daly. **Woman Battering: Victims and Their Experiences.** Beverly Hills: Sage, 1981.

Report of a sociological society of women who were battered. Includes an exhaustive review and critique of literature and research to 1980 and a thorough analysis of the depth and breadth of the problem. Pagelow also tests her own data against other myths, models and conclusions. Differs from other studies chiefly in that it investigates women's constraints and perceived lack of alternatives rather than using them as subjects for psychological/personality tests.[3]

Pizzey, Erin. **Scream Quietly or the Neighbours Will Hear.** London: Ridley Enslow, 1977. Originally published 1974.

Written by the founder of the first women's shelter in Britain, this book describes how the shelter evolved from its beginning as a Women's Community Centre. Describes the plight of many of its clients and the responses they encountered from professionals and community members. One of the first books published about wife assault.[4]

Pogrebin, Letty Cottin. **Family Politics: Love and Power on the Intimate Frontier.** Toronto: McGraw-Hill, 1983.

In the author's own words, "**Family Politics** is about the meaning and feeling of family. But it is also an inquiry into the place of family in today's society, and the political uses of families in the public sphere." Although the book is American, much of the analysis also applies to Canada.[6]

Pressman, Barbara. **Family Violence: Origins and Treatment.** Guelph University, Office of Educational Practice, 1984.

This Canadian handbook, a blend of theory and practice, gives comprehensive guidelines and instructions for treating all members of violent families. Discusses historical and cultural background of family violence, myths and future preventive measures.[4]

Roy, Maria, ed. **The Abusive Partner: An Analysis of Domestic Battering.** New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1982.

The Abusive Partner, a collection of seventeen articles on batterers, reflects a diversity of opinion on the causes and nature of family violence and on the appropriate criminal justice and social service responses to battering. One section, "Contributing Factor," includes articles on the effects which nutritional and biochemical imbalances, alcoholism, pornography, and drug abuse have on aggressive behavior. Another section, "Special Populations," focuses on the characteristics of batterers who are in the military, who are alcoholics and who are imprisoned. Articles on treating family violence describe a wide range of approaches, from couples therapy to treatment for organic and physiological problems to community education and group counselling for men. **The Abusive Partner** also includes an article describing the work of a police crisis intervention team in Rhode Island and an article by Nancy Loving outlining a step-by-step procedure for police to use when answering domestic violence calls.[1]

Roy, Maria, ed. **Battered Women: A Psychosociological Study of Domestic Violence.** New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1977.

The intent of the collection is to explore many aspects of the problem of wife assault and to demonstrate that a multi-faceted approach to the problem is necessary. Fields represented include psychiatry, psychology, neurology, sociology, law enforcement, arbitration, legislation, and service programming. Community groups will find this book useful in learning how to approach various professionals. An Appendix which documents how the "Abused Women's Aid in Crisis" group began and mobilized interest in New York City will provide practical advice.[4]

Schecter, Susan. **Women and Male Violence: The Visions and Struggles of the Battered Women's Movement.** Boston: South End Press, 1982.

An overview which describes the political process through which wife assault was defined as a problem and the growth of support systems; gives some idea of what makes changes occur. Useful material for specialists and community members who wish to address the problem locally.[4]

Stark, Evan, Anne Flitcraft, and William Frazier. "Medicine and Patriarchal Violence: The Social Construction of a 'Private' Event." **International Journal of Health Sciences**, 1979 (Volume 9, Number 3).

Stark, Flitcraft and Frazier write that the medical response battered women receive contributes to the battering syndrome. The authors studied women treated at an urban hospital emergency room and found that, because battering is not considered to be a medical problem, health professionals offer only symptomatic treatment to battered women. When symptomatic treatment fails to solve the battered woman's problem, medical personnel attribute the failure of the treatment to a woman's secondary problems, such as alcoholism, drug abuse, and depression, and often label the woman as an "hysteric," "neurotic," or "hypochondriac." As a result of this diagnosis, the authors state, the battered woman internalizes these labels, thereby reducing her ability to understand her situation and respond adequately to resolve her crisis.[1]

Straus, Murray A., Richard J. Gelles, and Suzanne K. Steinmetz. **Behind Closed Doors: Violence in the American Family.** Garden City: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1980.

Sociologists Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz report the results of their survey on spouse abuse, child abuse, and sibling violence in American families. The authors analyze data to propose sociological trends in family violence and examine the relationship between marital conflict and violence among family members. Among the authors' recommendations to reduce family violence are increased availability of shelter and day care services, greater response from law enforcement officials to victims of domestic violence, abolition of the death penalty, and stricter gun control laws. The authors also review prior domestic violence studies, the relationship betwen different types of family violence, and characteristics of families with high levels of spouse and child abuse.[1]

Straus, M. A. "Wife-Beating: How Common and Why?" **Victimology**, Vol. 2, pp. 2-18, Nov. 1977.

Findings from a study on violence between spouses are presented. Although both husbands and wives are committing violent acts, the conclusion is stated that wives are victimized by violence in the family to a much greater extent than are husbands and should therefore be the immediate focus of social policy. The causes of wife-beating are discussed, with emphasis placed on the high level of conflict within the family. Probably the most often quoted statement from this article is Straus' assertion that "the marriage license is a hitting license." Good source of information regarding definition, extent, and causes of wife-beating.[2]

Walker, Lenore E. **The Battered Woman.** New York: Harper and Row, 1979.

Walker describes the psychology of battered women in this work by employing the theory of "learned helplessness" which holds that once people feel that they are helpless and unable to control events in their lives, it is difficult for them to believe they will ever be able to control their lives. Walker uses this concept to explain the seemingly endless barriers and difficulties that women experience in extricating themselves from violent relationships. Perhaps Walker's most significant treatment of battered women is her theory of the cyclical nature of battering. In **The Battered Woman**, she describes three phases of the battering cycle: the tension-building phase, the explosion or acute battering incident, and the period of loving respite. Walker goes on to explain the treatment implications of her cycle theory of violence.
The book concludes with a section entitled "The Way Out," in which Walker examines safe houses and legal and medical alternatives, and analyzes the various forms of psychotherapy used by professionals with battered women and men who batter. Highly recommended for all who are providing services to battered women.[1]

Walker, Lenore E. **The Battered Woman Syndrome.** New York: Springer, 1984.

Result of a research study conducted over a three year period with four hundred women. Identifies key psychological and sociological factors which compose "the battered woman syndrome." Walker's applications of the "learned helplessness" theory and the "cycle of violence" theory were tested in the study. The book is essential follow-up reading to **The Battered Woman**.[4]

Watkins, Carol. **Victims, Aggressors and the Family Secret.** Minnesota: Department of Public Welfare, 1982.

Synthesizes knowledge about physical abuse of children, women and the elderly, as well as sexual abuse and marital rape. Identifies commonalities found among family aggressors and victims and discusses similarities found in dynamics and circumstances of abusive families. Delineates factors which facilitate violence, examines intervention strategies and gives recommendations for action.[4]

NOTES

[1] Centre for Women Policy Studies. **A Selected Annotated Bibliography on Domestic Violence.** Washington: Centre for Women Policy Studies, 1982.

[2] Fortune, Marie M. and Hormann, Denise. "Annotated Bibliography" in **Family Violence: A Workshop Manual for Clergy and Other Service Providers.** Seattle: Centre for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, 1980, pp. 88-91.

[3] Martin, Del. "Foreword" in Pagelow, M. D. **Woman Battering: Victims and Their Experiences.** Beverly Hills: Sage, 1981. p. 8.

[4] Office for the Prevention of Family Violence, Staff.

[5] Pagelow, M. D. "Preface" in **Family Violence.** New York: Praeger, 1984, p. iii.

[6] Pogrebin, L. C. **Family Politics, Love and Power on the Intimate Frontier.** Toronto: McGraw-Hill, 1983.

[7] **Social Work.** Sept./Oct. 1983, p. 408.

[8] **Social Work.** Jan./Feb. 1984, p. 80.

[9] Straus, Murray A. "Foreword" in Giles-Sims, J. **Wife-Battering: A Systems Theory Approach.** New York: Guilford Press, 1983, p. v-vii.

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